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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.

COMMENTS ON SINS AND "SELF-CRITICISM"
OF PARTY MEMBER LI, TAX BUREAU CHIEF

Canton, 25 February -- The editorial, which appeared in the 25 February issue of the Nan-fang Jih-pao, the party organ for the South China Bureau, CCP Central Committee, created considerable stir among the Canton populace, especially among the business and industrial circles. The editorial severely criticized the illegal practices of a party member, Li Shih-chung, chief of the Tax Bureau, Canton People's government. The editorial impressed people with the fact that the Communist Party is essentially honest with the people, that it has the courage to acknowledge errors, and is not afraid to criticize others as well as itself, and that it upholds the rights of the people.

On 12 February, the Kuang-chou People's government held its tenth executive meeting and heard Li's report on tax collection from business houses and industries during the latter half of 1949. His methods were reviewed and his bad habits criticized. Li had not conformed to the established government regulations and had not trained his tax collectors properly. Furthermore, an article he had written on 4 February had increased corrupt tax-collecting methods, contrary to the People's government policy.

As a member of the party, Li was required to write a "self-criticism" article because his 4 February article had been highly irregular. He criticized himself for improper activities in tax collecting, for being undemocratic, for not making realistic estimates of taxes, for not listening to businessmen's opinions, for not carrying out suitable propaganda in advance, for using overbearing and brutal tactics in apportioning tax collections, and for his subjective methods.

These faults should not exist, especially among officials high in the People's government. They should not be allowed because they are wrong. Our Tax Bureau chief must be held responsible for writing such an article as "Answering Incorrect Impressions," appearing in three local papers on 4 February, which does not conform to party ideals.

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The 25 February editorial in the Nan-Fang Jih-pao, commenting on Li's "self-criticism" article, stated: "Comrade Li departed completely from the stand of the Communist Party and the People's government. He created a feeling of opposition and dissatisfaction among the masses towards the party and the government. Comrade Li used corrupt KMT methods which are destructive and irresponsible."

The editorial went on to say: "This paper does not intend to make a personal accusation, but fights against these faults. It is possible that such bureaucratic practices may exist in other government offices. Therefore, the party has decided to initiate a thorough self-criticism movement of government party workers. The criticism against Li is the beginning of such a movement in South China."

"The aim of the movement is based on Chairman Mao's statement: 'We are not afraid to reveal our faults. We certainly must correct them. We must increase education within the party to eliminate faults.'" --
Ch'en Lang

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